

HOUSE RESOLUTION 37
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to honor President of Tennessee Technological University, Dr. Robert R. Bell, on being named recipient of the 2005 Ned R. McWherter Leadership Award.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert R. Bell, President of Tennessee Technological University (TTU), is one such estimable person who has served with dedication and probity in the field of business education and educational administration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bell is an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who has worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; his outstanding abilities are being recognized in the form of his selection as recipient of the first Ned R. McWherter Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence will bestow the Ned R. McWherter Leadership Award upon one individual each year who exemplifies outstanding leadership in pursuit of performance excellence, is dedicated to the principles of excellence, has furthered performance improvement beyond his organization, and is committed to the core values of the Center; and

WHEREAS, the award is named for former Tennessee Governor Ned McWherter, under whom the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence was created in 1993; and

WHEREAS, a public-private partnership, the Center's program is based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and was established as an economic development tool to stimulate Tennessee business and industry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert R. Bell was selected for this honor because of his outstanding leadership at TTU and the Tennessee Board of Regents, the way in which he incorporates business excellence principles at the university, and his use of the Baldrige framework on the campus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert R. Bell was appointed a charter member of the Center's Board of Director's in 1992; he has served four terms on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award's Board of Examiners, and has served on the Center's panel of judges since 1994; and

WHEREAS, he is a dedicated member of and an integral part of the Cookeville and greater Tennessee communities; he is past President of the Tennessee College Association and recently completed a term on the professional accrediting body for colleges of business, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business; and

WHEREAS, he also serves on the Board of Directors and is the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bell's interest in promoting business quality in Tennessee fueled his service on a state-level trade mission to Japan, on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Quality Award (TQA), and on the Panel of Judges of TQA; and

WHEREAS, his renowned efforts are not limited to the local or state arena; Dr. Bell has served as an Economic Development Consultant to the World Bank and as a Lead Judge for the National Quality Award of the Nation of Mauritius in both 1996 and 1997; for his outstanding service, he has been recognized by the U. S. Secretary of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Dr. Bell's work with academic institutions and professional organizations, he still finds time to lend his talents to local community organizations; he has chaired the Board of Directors for the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Quality Council, and the Putnam Tomorrow Task Force for the Putnam County Commission; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bell currently serves as Chairman of the Cookeville Industrial Development Board, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Cookeville Noon Day Rotary and the Bryan Symphony Orchestra, and is a member of the Executive Board of the Middle Tennessee Council for Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bell has earned the respect of the business community, his students, faculty, and fellow administrators alike with his honesty and integrity as a scholar and a businessman; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Bell has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of those fortunate enough to work with him; and

WHEREAS, before coming to Cookeville and Tennessee Technological University on July 1, 2000, Dr. Bell initiated his academic career at the University of Florida where he earned his Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior and Management in 1972; he later moved to TTU from the University of North Florida; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bell's academic accomplishments include authoring two books, over 70 articles, and scholarly papers in the fields of management, organizational design, computer science, and quality/productivity management, in addition to his labors aimed at learning, inspiring, and generating an understanding of business principles in the academic community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bell is also deeply devoted to his family, and he has always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoys the loving companionship of his wife, Gloria, and is the proud father of three children and three grandchildren; the Bells are faithful and devout members of First United Methodist Church in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bell exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; his dedication to his profession and to the good people of Cookeville, the State of Tennessee, and our great nation is unparalleled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend President of Tennessee Technological University Dr. Robert R. Bell of Cookeville for his outstanding career as a business educator, educational administrator, and public servant, and on being named recipient of the first Ned R. McWherter Leadership Award as presented by the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.